GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3628
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop 62lakh hectares of wasteland Ide graded land of the country under the new watershed development programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which the States are likely to be benefited under the programme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNA SAHEB M.K.PATIL)

(a) to (d) Watershed development projects for treatment of the wastelands/degraded lands in the country are sanctioned by Ministry of Rural Development under three Area DevelopmentProgran1llles, namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DP AP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP). It is proposed to sanction newwatershed development projects covering 30 lakh ha. of area during 2002~2003 under the three Programmes as per details given below :

SI.No.	Name of the Programme	Targeted area (in lakh ha.)
1.	IWDP	10
2.	DPAP	12
3	DDP	8
	Total	30

Under the above Programmes, each project is implemented over a period of 5 years and funds are released in seven instalments. Consequently, funds are released on projectto-project basis and no State-wise allocations are made. However, new projects are sanctioned keeping in view the availability of treatable wastelands in the States, incidence of poverty, unemployment, water scarcity and performance in on-going projects.

In-situ soil and moisture conservation measures are the key operations in these projects, which result in improvement in the availability of surface and ground water. These projects also help in improving productivity of the degraded lands/wastelands and generate additional bio-mass, especially fuel-wood and fodder, creating more employment in rural areas in a sustainable manner, thereby ensuring overall poverty alleviation.